

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) A method of operating a self-service checkout terminal of a retail store, comprising the steps of:

recording a number of merchandise items for purchase by a user by said self-service checkout terminal;

receiving movement signals from a plurality of adjoining detection zones of a floor mat in a checkout floor area adjacent to said self-service checkout terminal in response to said detection zones reacting to a weight of said user as said user walks on said detection zones by said self-service checkout terminal;

tracking directional movements of said user from said movement signals by said self-service checkout terminal as said user walks about said checkout floor area in any direction while using said self-service checkout terminal;

receiving a last movement signal as said user leaves said checkout floor area indicative of said user ceasing operation of said self-checkout terminal;

determining if a payment-tendered control signal was received by said self-service checkout terminal indicative of said user having tendered payment for said merchandise items prior to receipt of said last movement signal; and

if said payment-tendered control signal was not received by said self-service checkout terminal, determining

a last direction of movement of said user prior to said user leaving said checkout floor area by said self-service checkout terminal, and operating a summoning device so as to summon retail personnel by said self-service checkout terminal if said last direction of movement was towards an exit of said store.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said summoning device comprises a status light above said self-service checkout terminal.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said summoning device comprises a paging system coupled to said self-service checkout terminal.

30. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising tracking rates of directional movements and operating said summoning device after determining from a final rate that said user is exiting said checkout floor area in haste.

31. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining that said last direction of movement of said user prior to said user leaving said checkout floor area was towards a shopping area by said self-service checkout terminal;

receiving a new movement signal as said user reenters said checkout floor area; and

allowing said user to continue a retail transaction in response to receipt of said new movement signal.

32. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

tracking directional movements of a cart of said user on said floor mat.

33. (New) A self-service checkout system comprising:

a floor mat including a plurality of adjoining detection zones for producing movement signals in a checkout floor area in response to said detection zones reacting to a weight of said user as said user walks on said detection zones;

a summoning device; and

a self-service checkout terminal adjacent to said checkout floor area including a computer for

recording a number of merchandise items for purchase by said user;

receiving movement signals from said floor mat;

tracking directional movements of said user from said movement signals as said user walks about said checkout floor area in any direction while using said self-service checkout terminal;

receiving a last movement signal as said user leaves said checkout floor area indicative of said user ceasing operation of said self-checkout terminal;

determining if a payment-tendered control signal was received, indicative of said user having tendered payment for said merchandise items prior to receipt of said last movement signal; and

if said payment-tendered control signal was not received, determining a last direction of movement of said user prior to said user leaving said checkout floor area, and operating said summoning device so as to summon retail personnel if the last direction of movement was towards an exit of the store.

34. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein said summoning device comprises a status light above said self-service checkout terminal.

35. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein said summoning device comprises a paging system coupled to said self-service checkout terminal.

36. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the computer is also for tracking rates of directional movements and operating said summoning device after determining from a

final rate that said user is exiting said checkout floor area in haste.

37. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the computer is also for

determining that said last direction of movement of said user prior to said user leaving said checkout floor area was towards a shopping area;

receiving a new movement signal as said user reenters said checkout floor area; and

allowing said user to continue a retail transaction in response to receipt of said new movement signal.

38. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the computer is also for

tracking directional movements of a cart of said user on said floor mat.